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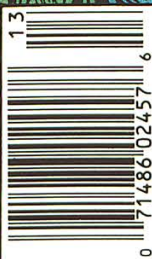


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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

WHO
KIDNAPED
Mary Jane?



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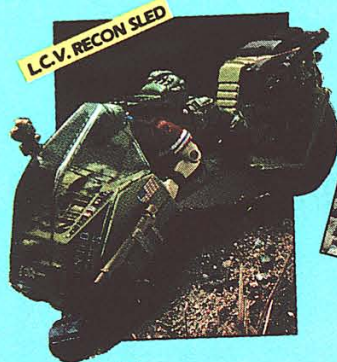
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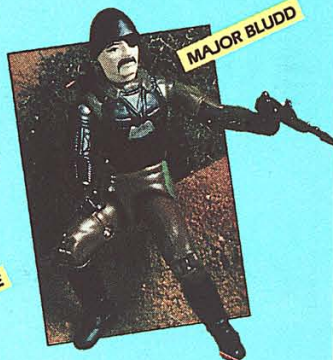
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BAZOOKA



THE FRIDGE



MAJOR BLUDD

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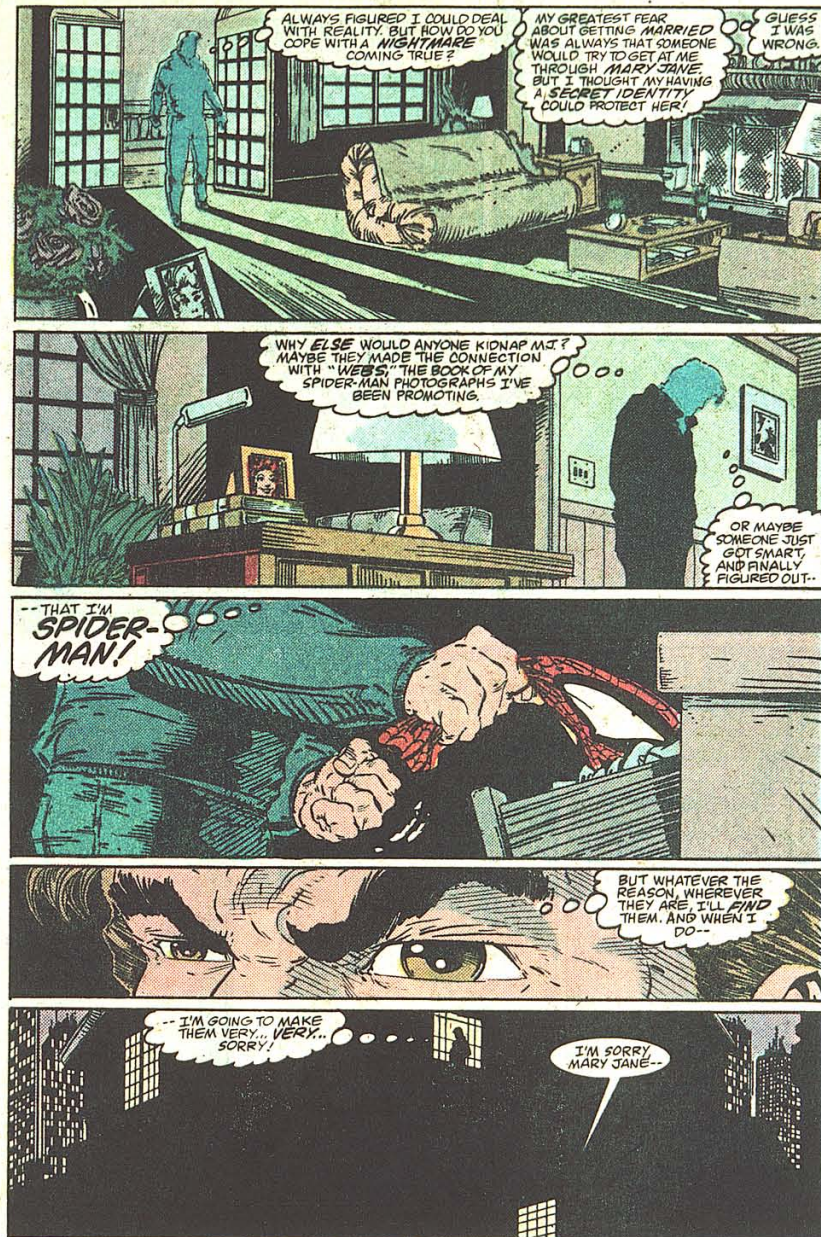
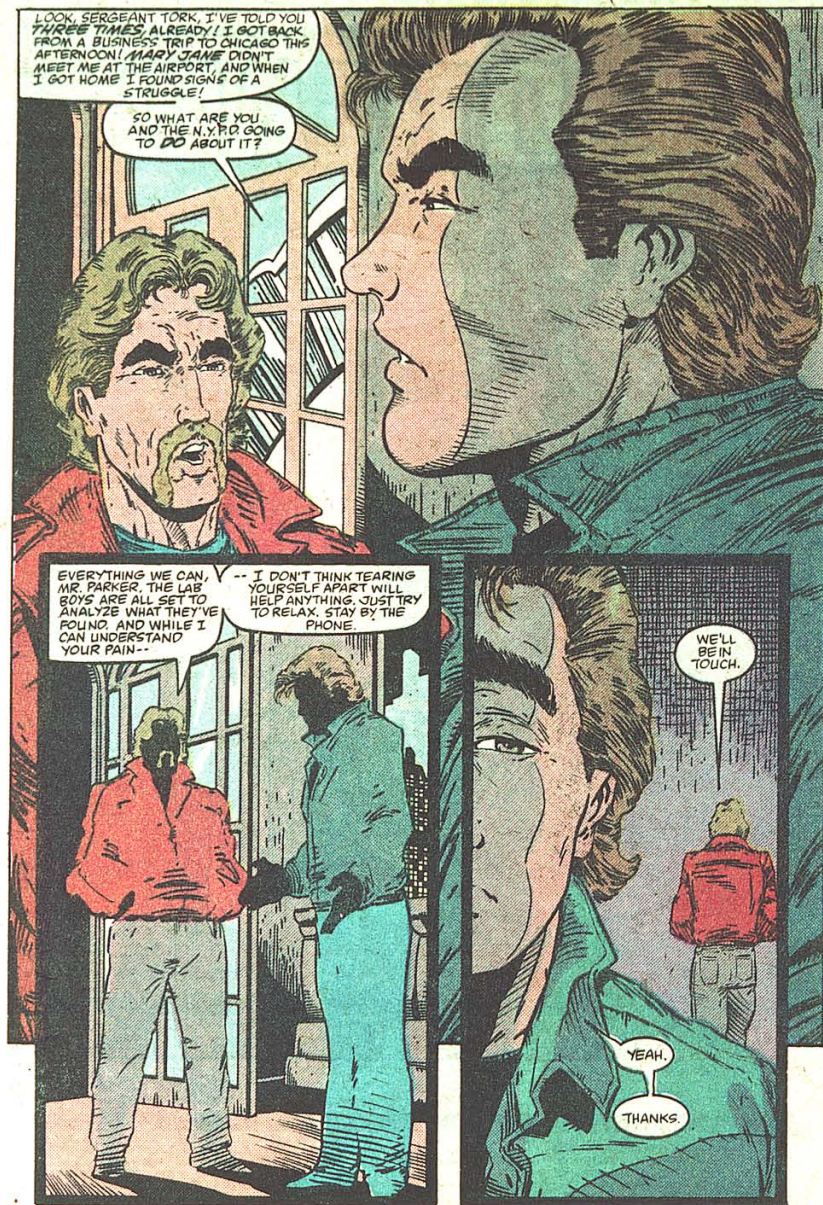
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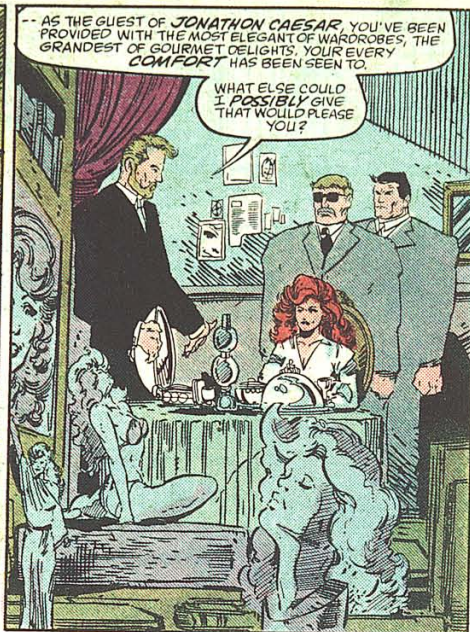


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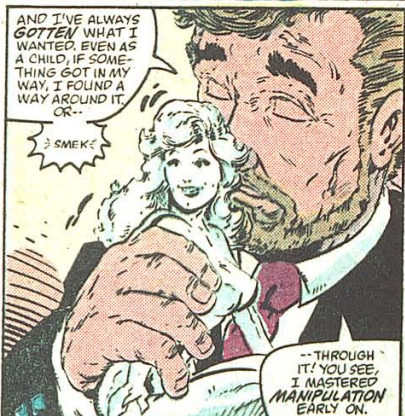
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AS I AGED, I REFINED MY SKILLS. MADE CONNECTIONS IN BOTH THE BUSINESS AND CRIMINAL WORLDS. AND WHEN I SAW YOUR PICTURE ON A MAGAZINE COVER, AND REALIZED WHAT I REALLY WANTED IN LIFE, I WAITED. I'M EVER SO PATIENT.

I MANEUVERED YOU TO THE TOP OF THE WAITING LIST HERE AT THE BEDFORD TOWERS, THEN HAD THIS ROOM CONSTRUCTED, SOUNDPROOFED, AND EVEN INCLUDED AN UNBREAKABLE WINDOW SO YOU COULD HAVE SUNLIGHT.

I WANTED YOU TO BE HAPPY IN OUR LIFE... TOGETHER!

Y-YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

MY DEAR, I ALREADY HAVE! TRY TO ADJUST, WON'T YOU? PERHAPS I'LL EVEN HAVE A SECOND ROOM BUILT FOR YOU--

--ONCE WE'RE MARRIED!

MARR--? B-BUT, I'M ALREADY--!

NO USE, HE'S GONE, OH, PETER... I LOVE YOU, PETER... PLEASE...

"...FIND ME!"

8

AND IF HE DOESN'T, IT'S NOT FOR LACK OF TRYING. HE MAKES CONTACTS, ASKS QUESTIONS.

SOMETIMES, NONE TOO GENTLY.

HE'S AFRAID FOR HIS WIFE! AFRAID SHE MIGHT BE IMPERILED BECAUSE OF HIM. HE'S AFRAID FOR THE FUTURE.

AND FEAR CAN BE CONTAGIOUS.

SMALL TIME HOOD, CHILI BONO, CATCHES IT BAG.

BAD ENOUGH TO ADMIT THERE'S A NEW GUY IN TOWN, SOMEONE WHO'S ANGER COULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO SPAWN REVENGE.

HE DOESN'T HAVE DETAILS, BUT CAN GET THEM BY TOMORROW NIGHT. SPIDER-MAN LETS HIM GO. IT'S ONE OF THE TOUGHEST THINGS HE'S HAD TO DO. ALMOST AS TOUGH--

9

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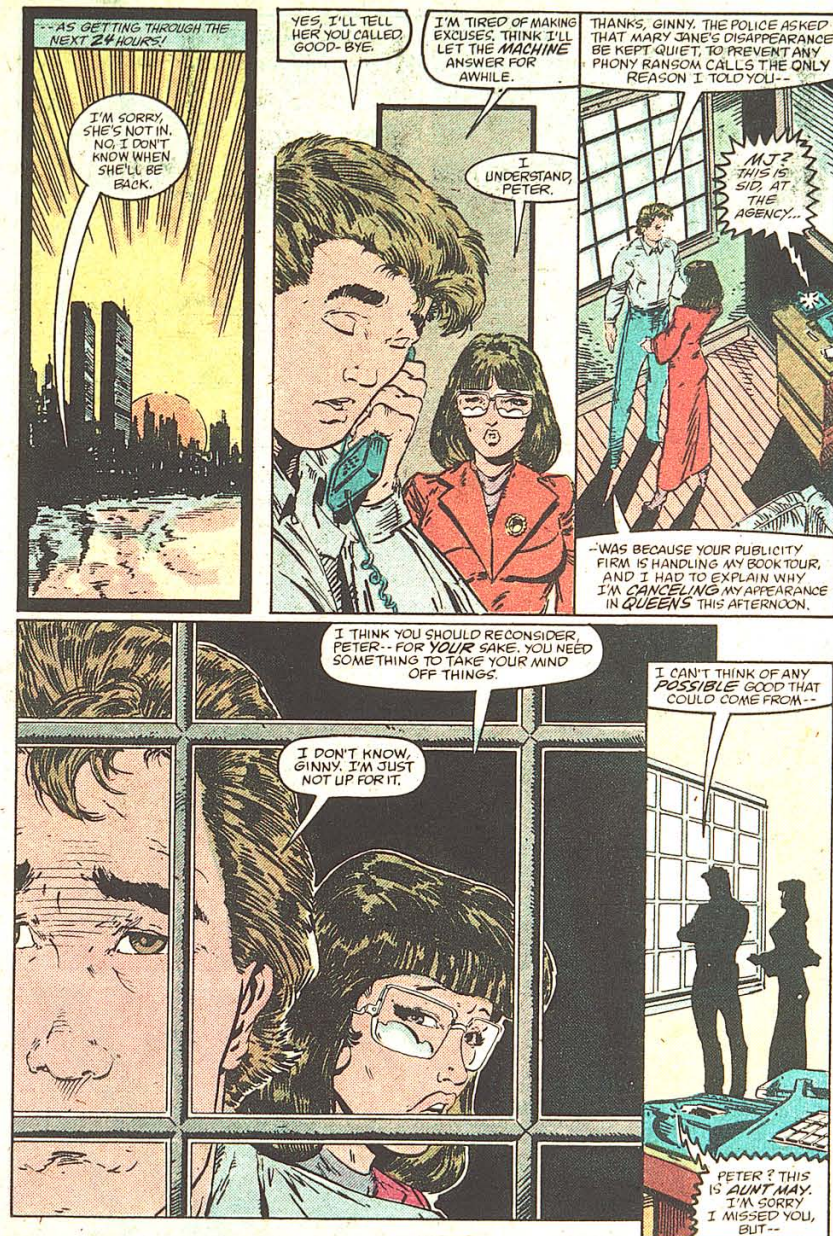
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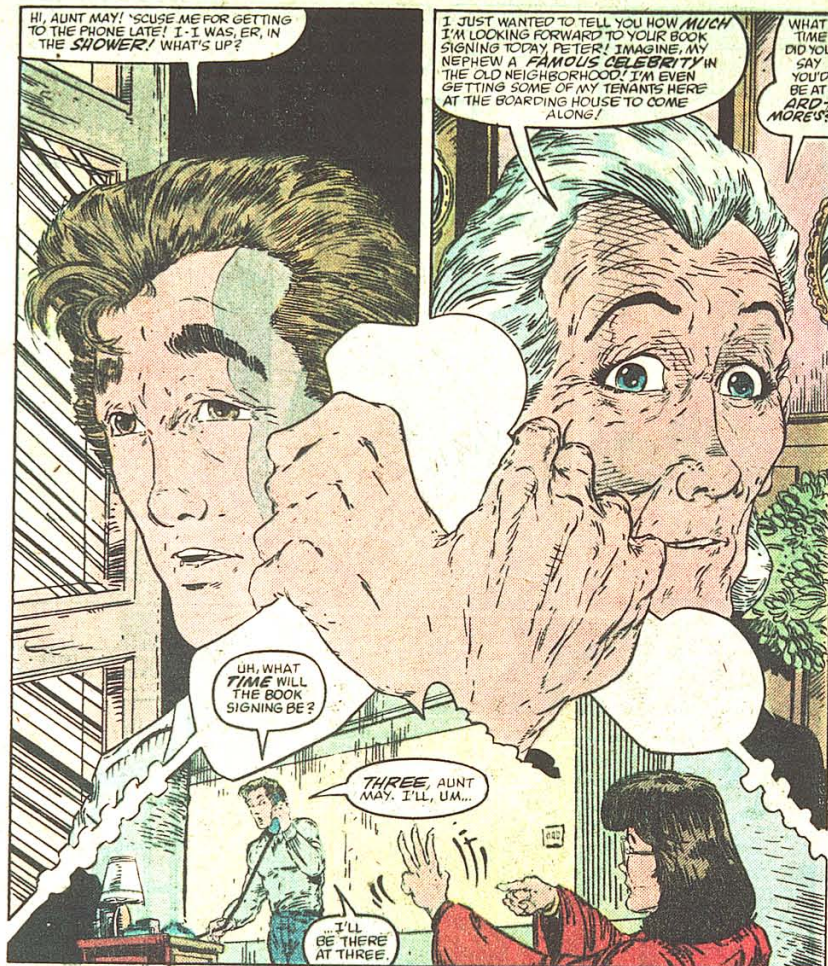
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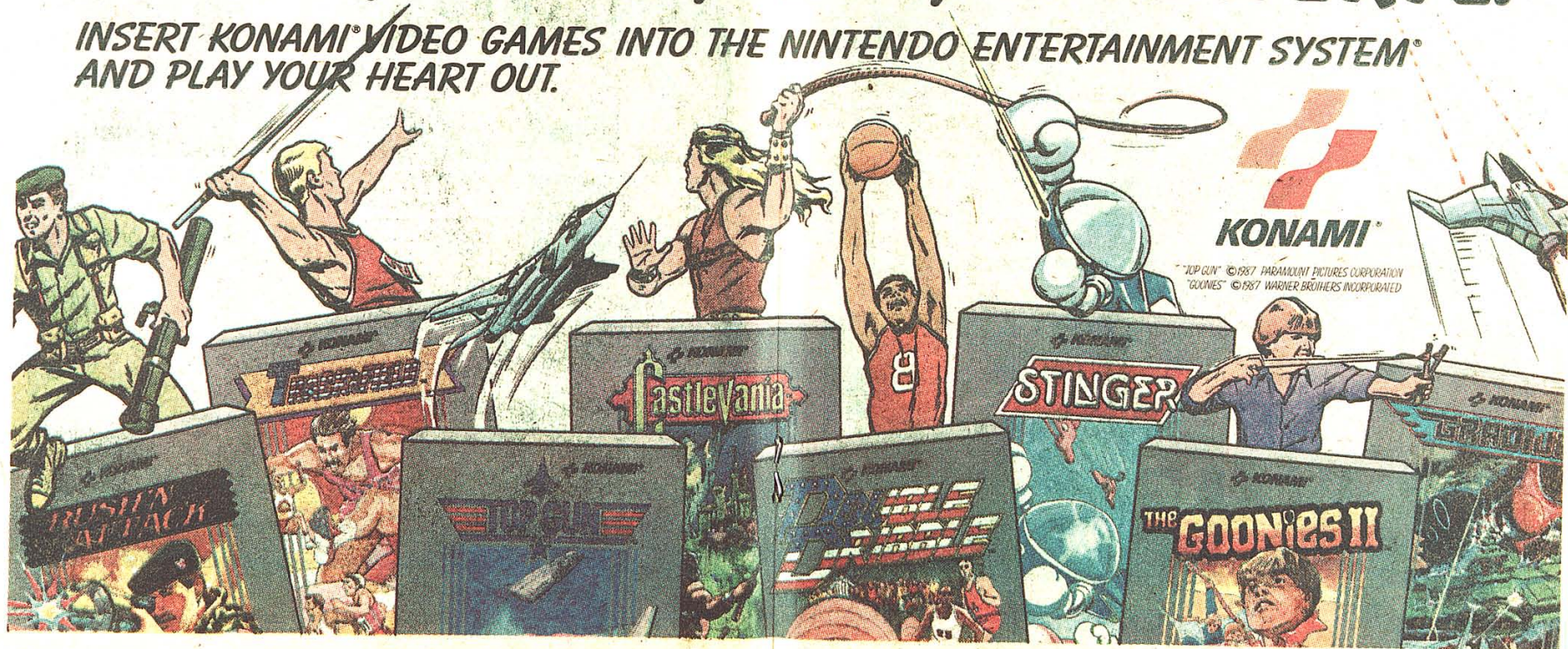
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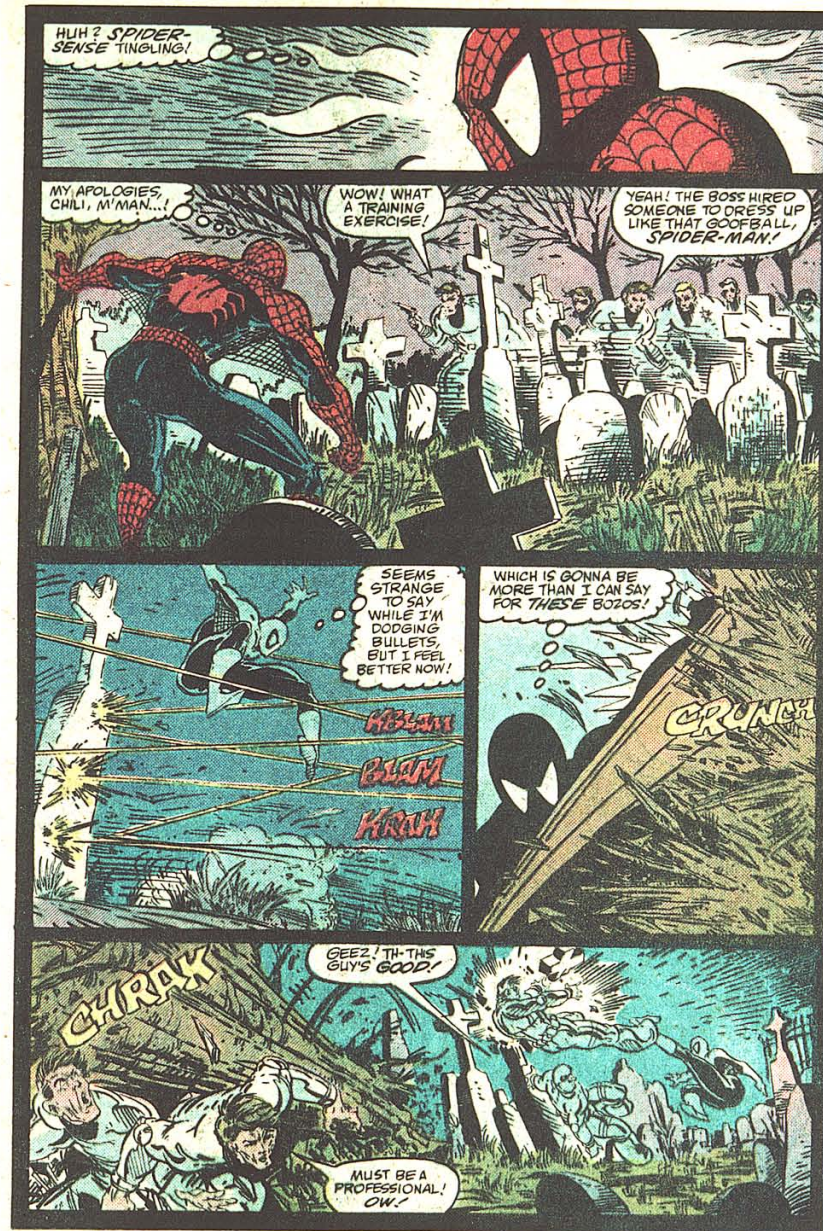
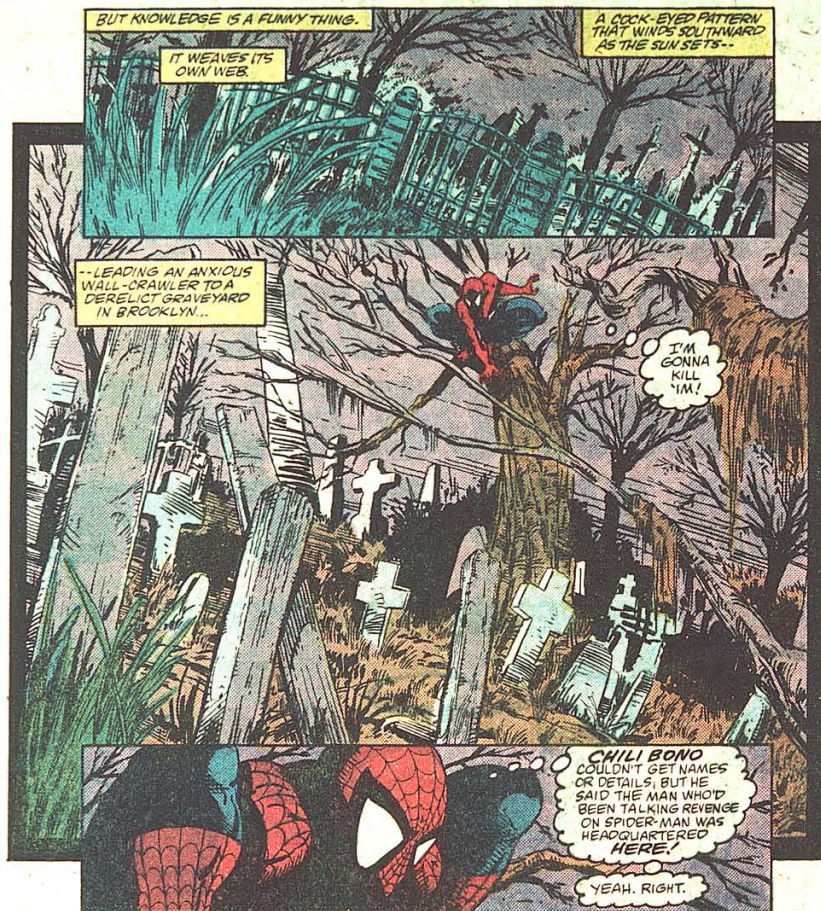


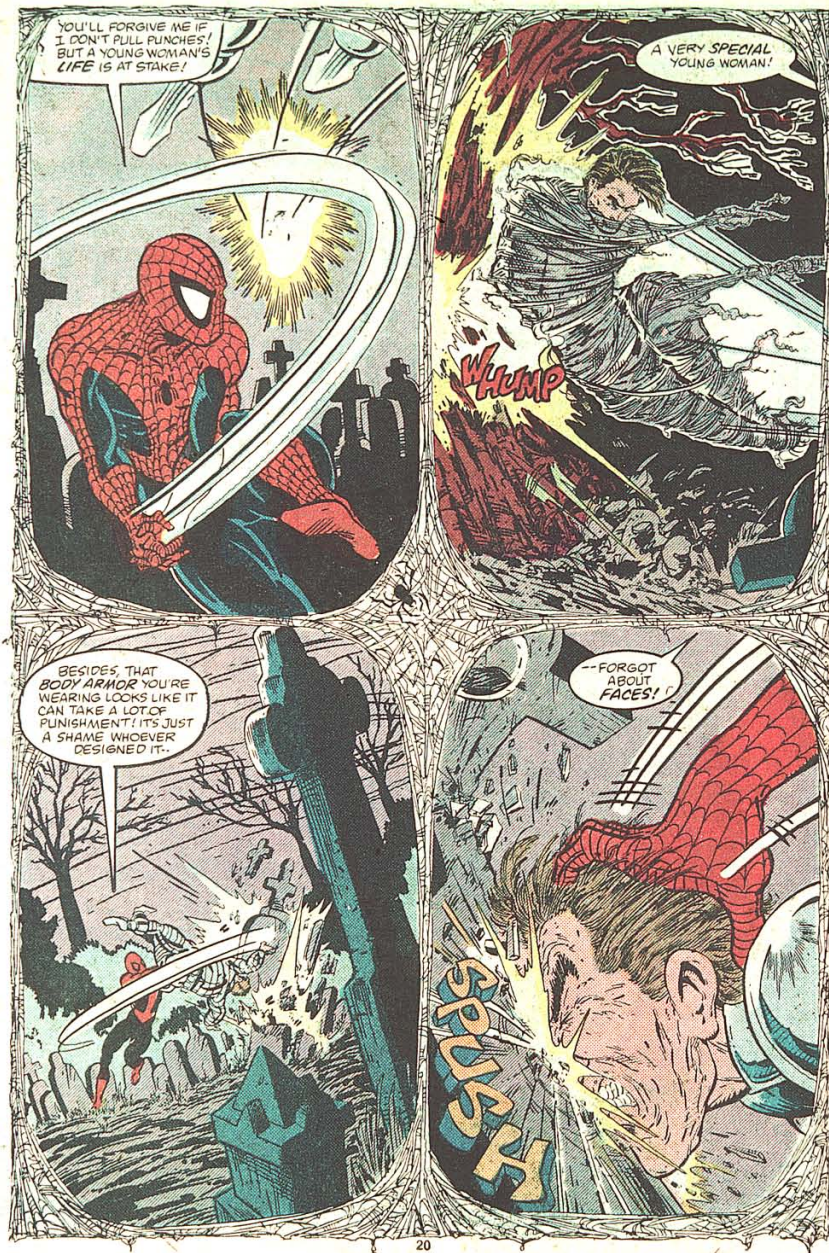


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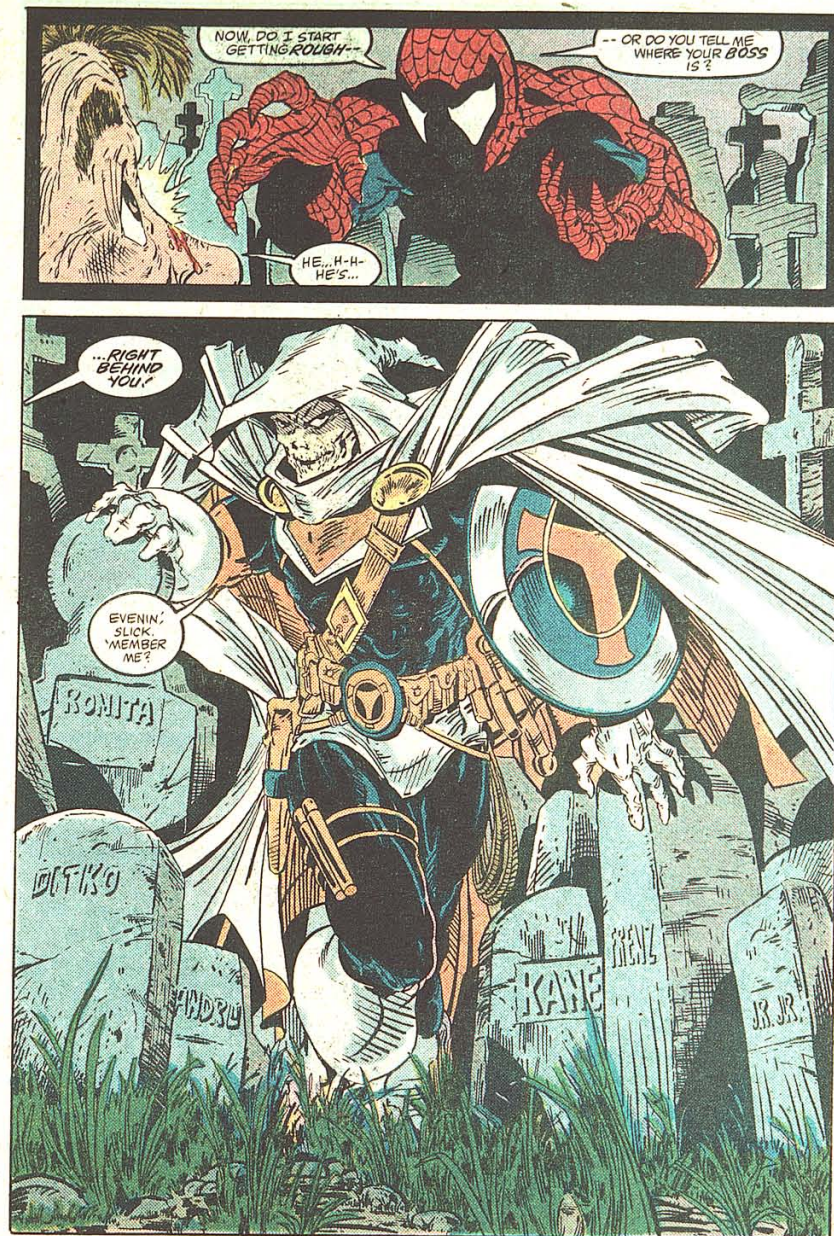
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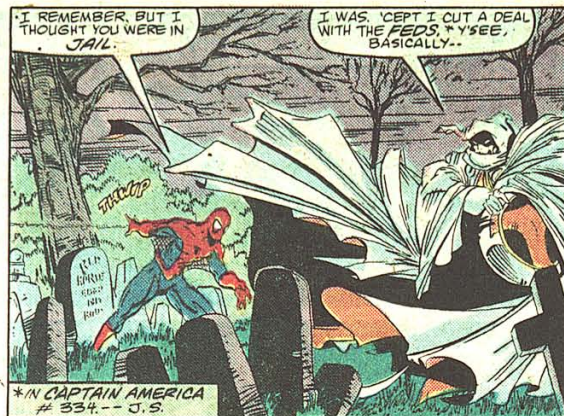
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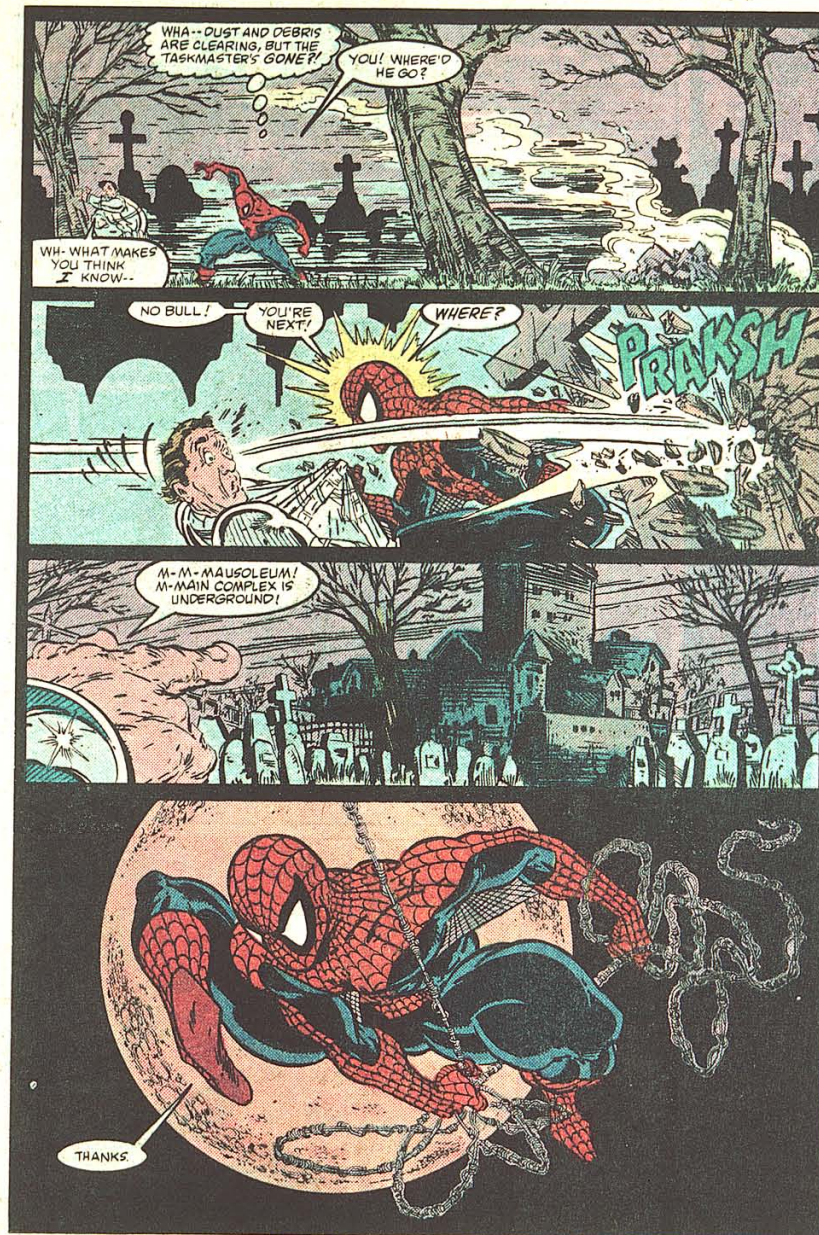
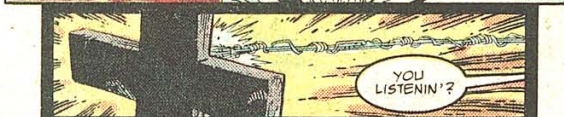
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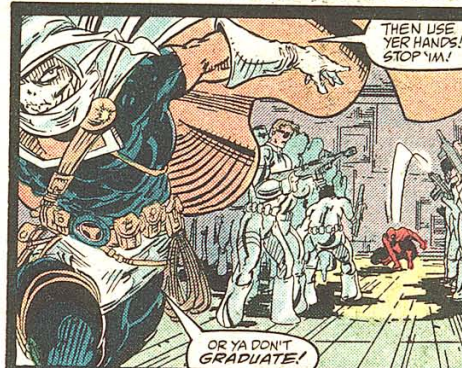
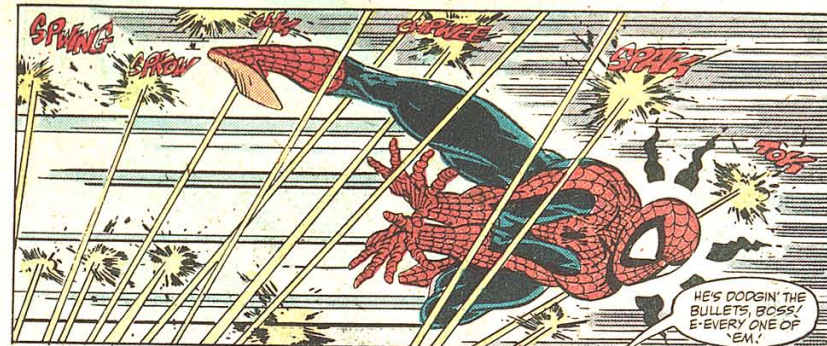


* THE TWO MET IN
MARVEL TEAM-UP #103--J.S.



* IN CAPTAIN AMERICA
334--J.S.





ALL RIGHT, TASKMASTER... IT'S JUST YOU AND ME.

YER NUTS! I NEVER HEARD O' THIS MARY LOU WILSON-PICKET.

I SHUT DOWN YOUR OPERATIONS ONCE! WORD HAS IT THAT YOU'VE BEEN TALKING REVENGE! I FIGURE YOU NABBED PARKER'S WIFE TO LURE ME HERE BECAUSE OF THE CONNECTION WITH THE PHOTOS HE'S TAKEN OF ME!

YOU ARE CRAZY! SURE, I TALK TOUGH, BUT I SET UP MY ACADEMIES SO I COULD MAKE GOOD MONEY WITHOUT FACIN' JOKERS LIKE YOU!

NOT THAT I CAN'T DEFEND MYSELF WHEN I HAFTA! I'VE STUDIED LOTS O' TAPES! AN' WITH MY PHOTOGRAPHIC REFLEXES...

--I CAN DUPLICATE ANY FEAT PERFECTLY AFTER ONLY SEEN' IT! LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD-THROWIN'!

OR THE BLACK KNIGHT'S SWORD WORK I OR--

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Sometimes I lose sight of what or whom I'm fighting for."

—Punisher

PUNISHER'S WAR JOURNAL #1

ITEM: He's faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, and it's his birthday! Yes, we're talking about Superman, that strange visitor from another planet who's celebrating his fiftieth anniversary in comics. We want to take this opportunity to congratulate our friends at DC COMICS and to wish the granddaddy of all super heroes a happy fiftieth. After all, if it wasn't for the success of Jerry Siegel's and Joe Shuster's most famous creation it's unlikely that there ever would've been a Marvel Universe! To

honor Jerry, Joe, and Superman, none other than Stan (the Man) Lee will be attending the International Superman Exposition June 18th in Cleveland, Ohio. May the battle for truth, justice, and the American way never, ever end!

ITEM: Dapper Danny Fingerh, frazzled freelance writer about town, recently tied the knot with the ravishing Roni Cooper on May 28 in a small ceremony attended by family friends. Congratulations to the cowering couple from Marvelites all over!

ITEM: And speaking of congrats, Charisma-

lic Chris Claremont, mutant book writer supreme, is beaming with well-deserved pride because *FIRST FLIGHT* (his very first prose science-fiction novel) just went into its third printing. Talk about a multi-talented threat, not only is Cheerful Chris one of the best-selling comic book writers of all time, but he's also scoring high as a legitimate novelist. What's next for the ol' charismatic one? Broadway? Hollywood? Or, do you think it's possible to convince him to write a fill-in issue of *HEATHCLIFF'S FUNHOUSE*?

PROFILER: Gregory Wright

Managing Editor on: WEB OF FORTUNE (I choose your own adventure type Spider-Man book), MARVEL UNIVERSE Update, HERCULES Graphic Novel, THE BEST OF MARVEL COMICS VOL TWO and some top secret stuff I'm plotting to do. Also, I'm still working with the now beardless Mark Gruenwald on THE AVENGERS, SOLO AVENGERS, NICK FURY VS. SHIELD, and a Nick Fury Wolverine graphic novel. Wheel!

Marvel freelance credits (past): Colist on so many single issues that I couldn't even begin to count. They include: SPIDER-MAN, X-FACTOR, FANTASTIC FOUR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, and some WHAT THE--? stories.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Colist on MARVEL AGE, a couple of annuals, and anything else that needs to be done overnight. Writer on a few SOLO AVENGERS stories (Wonder Man—plug, plug), and a weird Nightmask story I'm doing with Kieron Dwyer.

My hobbies are: Making up obnoxious and sometimes vulgar comments to spring upon any and all unsuspecting (and suspecting) victims, seeing virtually every movie to hit the silver screen, music and cooking, getting unmercifully massacred at Scrabble.

The single work which I am most proud of is: I haven't done it yet, and when I do I will probably find something wrong with it.

My pet peeves are: Smokers, dopers, liars, cheaters, and racists. I have many more, but those are the top five.

My place of birth is: Et, ahem, Cleveland.

My greatest accomplishment outside of the comics field is: Fooling most of the people all of the time.

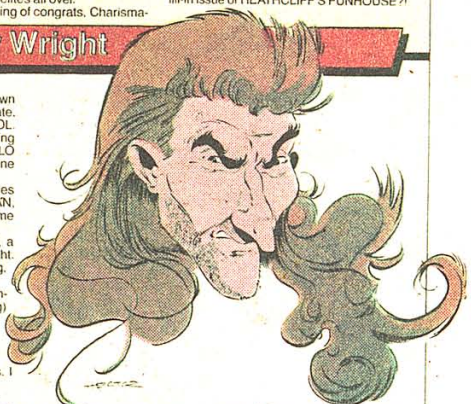
My oddest habit is: Eating weird food. Pepsi and milk. Raw eggs. Baloney, cream cheese, cheese in a spray can, mustard and horseradish all rolled up.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Sean Penn.

The reason I got into comics was: Ha! Dan Chichester did not have enough money for pizza one night. The next day, he got a job at Marvel. He got me my job. It's all his fault. Blame him. Send hate mail to Epic Comics.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Psychotic, strange, and wasting my time. But it was my time so...

My favorite performers are: DEVO, George Carlin, Robin Williams, Peter O'Toole, Marvin Gaye, James Brown, Blue Oyster Cult, Claude Bolling, Jean Pierre Rampall, and Andreas Vollenweider.



The last good book I read was: SOMETHING UNDER THE BED IS DROOLING.

The last good movie I saw was: Either ABOVE THE LAW, STARS AND BARS, or HOPE AND GLORY.

The biggest influences on my work include: Michael Curtiz, D.W. Griffith, Bill Watterson, David Lynch, Vittorio Storaro, Terry Jones, Don Martin, and a person or two who remain nameless, but they know who they are.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: It would be to write a book that no one expects. Something really strange and nasty. The kind of thing that is loved or hated, but never ignored.

The worst part of my job is: Not being able to work with as many of my favorite writers and artists as I would like.

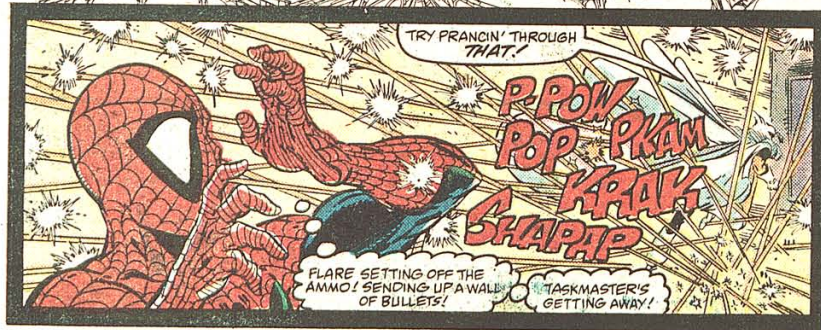
When nobody's looking I like to: Be a nice, sane, considerate kind of guy.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I'm not psychotic. I border on psychotic and schizophrenic, with a touch of pyromania thrown in for fun.

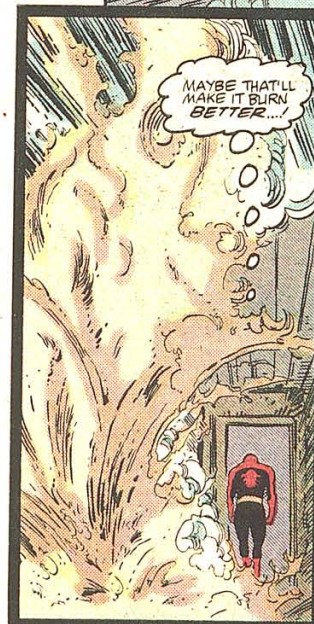
HYPENBOX

- ★ **THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #1** — At last — see the full origin of the Punisher as he battles kidnapping, drugs, and murder! And don't miss a special guest cameo by everyone's favorite lawyer Man Without Fear, Matt Murdock! An Eye for an Eye: Sunday in the Park is written and laid out by Dan Potts, with finished artwork by Jim Lee. \$1.50.
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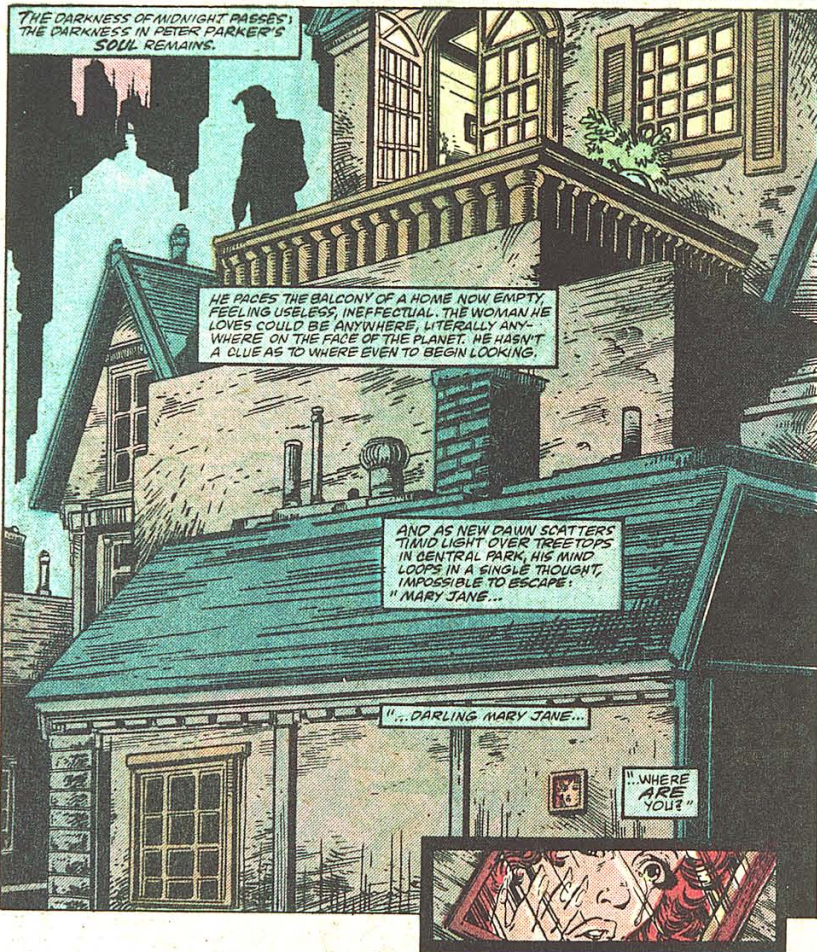
- ★ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #8** — The High Evolutionary wants the secret of cloning. But when he kidnaps the clone of Peter Parker's dead girlfriend, Gwen Stacy, he discovers that she's not a clone at all! And waiting in the wings, who are... the Young Gods? Scripted by Gerry Conway and penciled by Mark Bagley. 64 pages. \$1.75.
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NEXT ISSUE: BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS! BE HERE IN TWO WEEKS FOR...
"STYX AND STONE!"

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
 387 Park Avenue South
 New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
 EDITOR
 GLENN HERDLING
 ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Spider-Folk,

As I write this, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has just come out, and I commend you all on another great story! It's great to see Sabie again!

But my letter is actually concerning the letter from Pamela Holloway referring to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294 as "destroying literature." I know everyone is entitled to her own opinion, so I must voice mine against Ms. Holloway's letter. I do believe Kraven's death could've been handled better, but still, I would not call this kind of story "destroying literature." More, I would call it "enlightening literature."

Kraven was insane! Look over Marvel's history of suicides: Marvel Boy's power drove him insane; Obadiah Stane's continual defeats drove him insane; Tarantula became a monster, which drove him to insanity. Others — Kraven, Jackal, Grim Reaper, Destiny I, Scorpio, and Grand Director — were all insane when they committed suicide. Some may bring up other cases — what about Mimic, Guardian, Bucky I, Bloodstone, and Sam Sawyer — all died in their attempts to stop various menaces. Suicidal? Hardly. Noble and heroic? Most definitely.

These stories, whether subtle or not, are written to show how insane suicide is. It would be an even bigger crime to deprive children of these stories.

If kids read SPIDER-MAN or CAPTAIN AMERICA, and see how bad an effect suicide has on loved ones or see that other choices are available, they may change their minds and go with one of the other choices. This isn't to say I will stop suicide altogether, but it's a good start.

I'm sure others will agree with me when I say that if you deprive children of these stories, it's doing them more harm than good. I rest my case. Thank you for your time, and keep up the good work, guys.

C.M. Dymmel
 31438 Slumber Lane
 Fraser, MI 48026

You're absolutely right, C.M. Death and suicide have played an integral part in the unfolding saga of the Marvel Universe, always varying between the poles of heroism and insanity. As in other forms of entertainment, we try to portray such tragedies as true-to-life as possible in terms of human emotion. And in none of the cases you mentioned was suicide portrayed in a positive light.

Dear Marvel,

I am a stable, taxpaying, married, responsible adult who did not particularly enjoy the six-part Kraven saga, but who enjoyed the criticism of it even less. To attack Marvel for presenting a suicide, not glorifying it, is also to attack Shakespeare for Caesar (remember Bruto?), Chukhov for authoring *The Seagull*, Arthur Miller for penning *Death of a Salesman*, and many other great authors we read in high school.

Let me add that the *Spectacular Spider-Man* #137-138 (the Tarantula story) were among the most brilliant I have ever seen, full of life and humanity. Mary Jane and Peter are developing a real relationship by finding common ground in the universal quality of compassion.

Matthew Calhoun
 23-51 19th St.
 Long Island City, NY 11105

Thanks for standing by us, Matthew.

Dear Spider-People:

This is my first letter to any comic, though I have been collecting for over 10 years, and I had hoped that this occasion would be for praise for your fine work alone. But such is not the case.

First off, let me say that I feel that you are all doing a fine job at maintaining *The Amazing Spider-Man* as one of the finest comics in print. Though I personally disagree with the change back to the "red and blue" costume, I feel that Mr. Micheline is doing a fantastic job in his writing and has brought a degree of maturity to the book that I find extremely welcome. On the artwork side... Todd McFarlane's work is incredible. Mary Jane has never looked better.

Now on to the unfortunate part of my discourse. Issue number 301 contained a letter from a Pamela M. Holloway, and though by her comments, she will not see this letter, I feel that a few comments on the nature of the writer and what he writes are necessary.

Why must a writer condone the actions he chooses to write about? Does Mrs. Holloway really believe that Mr. DeMette is endorsing suicide as a permissible form of behavior? It seems unthinkable. I honestly wonder if she would "destroy" a newspaper carrying an article about a teen suicide, and then refuse to allow newspapers in her home. True, one is an informational account of a tragedy and the other is a fictional problem, but is there really any difference in their subject matter? Mrs. Holloway points out that so many teens are indeed committing suicide. Will pretending that this doesn't happen (by banning it from the comics medium and perhaps making it a taboo subject for fiction in general) make it go away? Or would it perhaps be better to portray it in a sensitive, and adult fashion (as DeMette has done) in order that children and teens can understand and just maybe discuss it with their parents? Ignoring the problem will not make it go away. I also feel that Mrs. Holloway doesn't understand the character of Kraven as an unbalanced, violent sociopath, whose behavior no one in their right mind would endorse or advocate.

In closing, I want to ask Mrs. Holloway, who again will not see, would she allow her children to read *Romeo and Juliet*, or *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? Both contain suicides. It's letters like hers that prompt parents to blame teen suicide and other such tragic events on comic books, or role-playing games, etc. rather than look for the real causes such as mental illness or parental neglect. I do not mean to throw accusations at Mrs. Holloway, who is, I am sure, a very concerned parent, but I merely point out that we need to look for more than cosmetic solutions to these problems.

Brian K. Curley
 633 Langdon St. #102
 Madison, WI 53703

Your comment about a writer not necessarily condoning the actions he portrays is particularly valid in this case. Brian J.M. DeMette is completely immersed himself in the character of Kraven and followed his twisted thought processes to what he believed was a dismal yet logical conclusion. Yet Mr. DeMette is the first person to denounce suicide as a solution to any problem.

Dear Mr. Salicrup,

After reading Ms. Pamela M. Holloway's letter in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #301, I now know what kind of people are the cause of the "Friendly Franks" fiasco. As a 15-year-old Baptist, I certainly don't advocate suicide, and even a fool can plainly see that Marvel doesn't, either. (No GROO jokes, please.)

Seriously, though, this attitude of "ignore it, it'll go away" is a real problem in our world today; if one were to erase (censor) all occurrences of suicide in literature, it would still exist in reality. If Mrs. Holloway believes she can protect her children from everything bad on our planet, it would be simpler to lock them in a dark cell for the rest of their lives and just slide a plate of food under the door at mealtime. Suicide definitely is a problem, but the type who say that "lunnybooks" cause it are possibly the most dangerous threat to freedom this country faces. I disagree with Mr. Peter Pak's letter in the same issue, but at least his opinions were well thought out and he certainly has a right to them; also, he wasn't afraid to have his address printed. If "suicide-advocating" Spider-Mans are "destroying literature," pray that Ms. Holloway's children never get a hold of any Shakespeare.

Aside from the censorship issue: If anyone wishes to join the Marvel Zombie Society or just receive our newsletter, please write to me as soon as possible. We are not strictly a Marvel fan club; I, as co-president in the MZS, collect titles from both the Big Two and many independent companies. I know you, Mr. Salicrup, disapprove of the "Marvel Zombie" epithet, but I and other Society members are proud that Marvel is our favorite publisher and we wish to announce it to the world.

Robert Hough
 Co-President,
 Marvel Zombie Society
 23 Lorine Circle
 Little Rock, AR 722054

Now that Kraven's dead, Robert, wouldn't he be the perfect mascot for the Marvel Zombie Society?

Dear Marvel,

I would just like to say a few things if you will bear with me. First of all, evidently contradictory to some people's opinion, I thought the Kraven Spidey mini-series was excellent. I think that the argument of Kraven's suicide being in bad taste was ridiculous. I am a fifteen-year-old myself and did not feel that the suicide issue was in bad taste at all. If anything, it faced a serious problem in today's society in a way easily understood by adolescents.

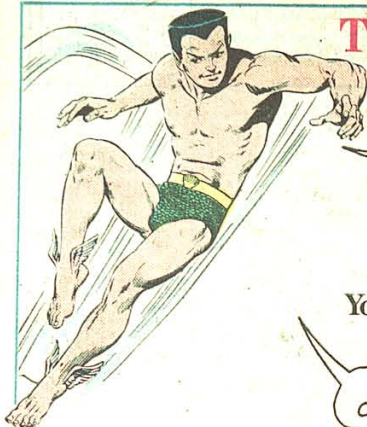
Comics over the years have often presented the problems of death, drugs, abused children, etc. These serious problems have always been (or so I thought) accepted before, so why, now, is this one story upsetting so many people? Children will sooner or later be introduced to suicide and its devastating effects on family, friends, and others. If these children's parents cannot educate them and discuss the topic and find it necessary to put down a mere comic book trying to write a simple story, then I think there are some children out there who may receive a great shock in the real world.

Okay. Enough of the serious stuff. The other thing I wanted to say is... Todd McFarlane is awesome!!! Spider-Man has always been my favorite Marvel character and Todd has brought some more excitement and flair to the web-head. Todd, if you're reading this, I want you to know that you're my second favorite artist (I won't mention the first).

Well, my ink's running dry so I better sign off. So until Pete and MJ split, Make Mine Marvel.

Joe Allen
 P.O. Box 680
 Union, WV 24983

Have no fear, Joe. Your second favorite artist (who soon hopes to be your first) will return, along with David, Rick, Bob and the rest.



There's something fishy going on here!

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THE CIRCLED LETTERS
TO COMPLETE THE
LINE "BETCHA
BITE A _____"

BETCHA
BITE A



ANS: FUDGE, DELICIOUS, RICH, CHOCOLATE, CHIPS, COOKIE

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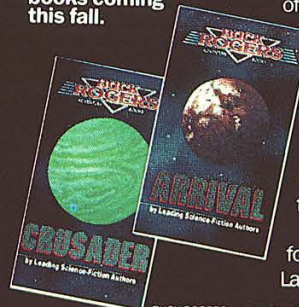
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books coming
this fall.



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